GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2375
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2003
CONTROL OVER REGIONAL CHANNELS
A. VENKATESH NAIK

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the various State Governments have requested the Union Government toallow them to have control over the regional channels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government on the proposal;

(d) whether the Prasar Bharati has not shown any interest to hand over the controlover the regional channels to State Governments; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) & (b): The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Tamil Nadu,Punjab, Tripura and West Bengal have requested that they be permitted to have their own Regional T.V. Channels.

(c), (d) & (e): The subject `Broadcasting` is included in the Union List under theConstitution. With the setting up of the Prasar Bharati Corporation, Doordarshan and AIR enjoy autonomy in programme matters. Prasar Bharati is a national entityand its mandate is defined under Section 12 of Prasar Bharati Act, which inter-aliainclude organising and conducting public broadcasting services to inform, educate and entertain the public of the country as a whole.

Prasar Bharati has informed that besides providing coverage to State Governments in programmes and news, time slots are given on specific requests from them for programmes from time to time.